



July 20, 2015

## New Soy Formula

Starting October 1, 2015 Gerber Good Start Soy will be the new contract formula for WIC. Staff may get questions from participants about this new formula and what the differences are from the previous soy formula. The State WIC Office has created a [Gerber vs. Enfamil document](#) that explains the differences between the formulas and a document for participants that explains [how to switch infants to a new formula](#). The State WIC Office has also provided a [poster](#) for local agencies to hang up in the clinics to inform the participants about the change that will be occurring. Gerber Good Start Soy will also be changing its label November 15, 2015. The new and old labels are on the posters for reference. The new [Medically Necessary WIC Approved Formula Request Form](#) is updated on the website. There is a [Healthcare Provider Letter](#) regarding the formula change. Please send this to all healthcare providers in your area.

## Nutrition and Breastfeeding Education Plans

A Nutrition Education Plan and a Breastfeeding Education Plan need to be completed and submitted to the State Office by September 1, 2015. The plans can be completed and submitted online through the WIC website under Local Agency Staff, then Clinic Admin Resources or completed on the forms provided at the beginning of June. Plans shall be:

- Completed with local agency WIC Director, Breastfeeding Coordinator, and/or Clinic Coordinator guidance in conjunction with staff input.
- Meet the needs of local staff and participants.
- Completed to include selection of at least one focus area and may include activities already being done and are considered ongoing. This year, we ask that you use your local agency data (breastfeeding, BMI and smoking cessation) when completing your activity plan for FFY 2016. *At least one activity must be aimed at improving one of the metric areas.*
- Submitted to the State Nutrition Coordinator annually by date specified. See contact information below. You may email or post mail your plans.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Lacy Little at [lalittle@mt.gov](mailto:lalittle@mt.gov) or (406) 444-5923.

## Health Professional Breastfeeding Conference

The Missoula Breastfeeding Coalition is sponsoring the Health Professional Breastfeeding Conference to be held 8:00 am to 5:00pm in Missoula on October 26, 2015, at the Holiday Inn Downtown. Kittie Frantz RN, CPNP-PC will be the featured presenter. They plan to have 6.5 IBCLC, CLC RN and WIC credits available. Early bird registration rates are still available when your [form and payment](#) are received by September 25<sup>th</sup>. A block of rooms is available under the Missoula Breastfeeding Coalition. The hotel phone number is 406-721-8550.

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## **New Immunization Requirements for Preschool, Prekindergarten and School Age Children**

New vaccination requirements for varicella disease, commonly known as chickenpox, for children attending preschool, prekindergarten and kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade go into effect October 1, 2015. Health care providers can also provide documentation if a child has already had a case of chickenpox. Please print and post a copy of the [news release](#) for your participant's information.

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## **Local Agency Conference Call**

Please review the [draft agenda](#) for the upcoming Local Agency Conference Call on August 6, 2015.

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## **Reminder About Gerber 2-Packs**

Please remind participants that the Gerber 2-packs of baby food include two 4oz containers. That means that when a participant purchases one of these 2-packs, they are purchasing 8 oz of baby food. If a participant receives a 2-pack for each of the quantity listed on their benefit, they not only are leaving the store with double their food prescription, but the retailer will likely lose money on the transaction.

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